

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 3 third paragraph line 4 please delete “wd” from the text.

On page 12 please replace the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The interaction of the cylindrical rod 60 with the blade 44 of the next successive section 24 also allows the sections 24 of the section chain 22 to be secured in a way that the whole section chain 22 can be drawn up by a drive mechanism 72 (not shown), but still allowing the sections 24 to be in a pivotal relationship with one another. Each side of the section 24 in the section chain 22 has one of the hooks 40 for engaging a similar hook 40 on an adjacent section 24. The saddle 70 and blade 44 arrangement may present a hook 40 on both sides of each successive section 24 of the section chain 22. The blade 44 and saddle 70 combination increases the reliability and structural integrity of the present invention tower 20.

On page 15 please replace the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

As illustrated in FIGS. 13, 14, 16, and 20-21, the attachment of the gear rack 36 to the strut 28 will be herein described. As illustrated in FIGS. 20 and 21, the gear rack 36 of the present invention is attached to the strut 28 utilizing recessed fasteners 77. The recessed fasteners 77 are placed in an alternating manner so that some of the fasteners 77 have the head exposed between the teeth of the gear rack 36, as illustrated in FIG. 21, and so that minimal gear rack 36 cross-sectional area is lost. Other fasteners 77 are illustrated in FIG. 20 where the head of the fastener 77 is exposed from the rearward side of the gear rack 36, as illustrated in FIG. 16. ~~This locking mechanism can be~~ In this manner the gear rack 26 is affixed to the strut 28 in a secure fashion.

On page 17 please replace the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

As illustrated in FIG. 22, the take up mechanism 80 comprises a square box shaped core 86 with four face members 90, 92, 94, and 96. Each face member 90, 92, 94, and 96 support and store the sections 24 of the section chain in a square shaped roll as the tower is retracted. As illustrated in FIG. 23, extending through the center of take up mechanism is a pivot rod 97 that is rotatably

supported on one end by a first roller brace 98 and on the opposite end by a second roller brace 100. As illustrated in FIG. 22, the first and second roller braces 98 and 100 roll along a first track 102 and a second track 104 (not shown) which extends in an upwardly slanted manner in an outwards direction from the tower 20 base. As sequential sections of the section chain 22 are rolled around the square box shaped core 86, the rollers 98 and 100 allow the rack to move in an outwards direction to receive the next section 24. When a complete section 24 is folded onto the square box shaped core 86, the pivot point between the sequential sections allows the box shaped core 86 to travel, via the rollers 98 and 100, back down the slanted tracks 102 and 104, readying the system for the take up of the next sequential section 24 of the tower 20. The slope of the first track 102 and the second track 104 provide an inward force to the take up mechanism 80. The interaction of the linked drive mechanism and the roller braces 102 and 104 provide a constant and concurrent take-up of each side of the tower 20 as the tower 20 is retracted. An identical system may connect the roller base to the take up mechanism and the section chain located that form the other sides of the retractable column.

On page 22 please replace the first full paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

As illustrated in Figure 17, the drive mechanism 72 is located within the confines of the guide tower 118 with the drive gear 73 located in such a manner to cooperatively interact with the gear rack 36 of each successive section 24, thereby pulling/pushing the tower 22[[-]] into an upright position. The drive mechanism 72 may comprise an electric motor that drives the gears; alternatively, other types of drive motors and arrangements may also be utilized.